Epiſtle.

vayne; the thinges though vvorthy of many, yet being knowen to few. Theſe my preſent paynes if to any they be pleaſurable or profitable, be you iudge, mine owvn good Maiſter Haruey, to vvhom I haue both in reſpect of your vvorthineſſe generally, and othervvyſe vpon ſome particular & ſpecial conſiderations voued this my labour, and the maydenhead of this our commen frends Poetrie, himſelfe hauing already in the beginning dedicated it to the Noble and vvorthy Gentleman, the right worſhipfull Ma. Phi. Sidney, a ſpecial fauourer & maintainer of all kind of learning.) VVhoſe cauſe I pray you Sir, yf Enuie ſhall ſtur vp any wrongful accuſation, defend vvith your mighty Rhetorick & other your rare gifts of learning, as you can, & thield with your good vvil, as you ought, againſt the malice and outrage of ſo many enemies, as I knovv vvilbe ſet on fire with the ſparkes of his kindled glory. And thus recõmending the Author vnto you, as vnto his moſt ſpecial good frend, and my ſelfe vnto you both, as one making ſinguler account of tvvo ſo very good and ſo choiſe frends, I bid you both moſt hartely farvvel, and commit you & your moſt commendable ſtudies to the tuicion of the greateſt.

Your owne aſſuredly to
be commaunded E. K.

Poſt ſcr

NOvv I truſt M. Haruey, that vpon ſight of your ſpeciall frends and fellow Poets doings, or els for enuie of ſo many vnworthy Quidams, vvhich catch at the garland, vvhich to you alone is devve, you vvill be perſvvaded to pluck out of the hateful darkneſſe, thoſe ſo many excellent Engliſh poemes of yours, vvhich lye hid, and bring the forth to eternall light. Truſt me you doe both them great wrong, in depriuing them of the deſired ſonne, and alſo your ſelfe, in ſmoothering your deſerued prayſes, and all men generally, in withholding from them ſo diuine pleaſures, which they might conceiue of your gallant Engliſh verſes, as they haue already doen of your Latine Poemes, which in my opinion both for inuention and Elocution are very delicate, and ſuperexcellent. And thus againe, I take my leaue of my good Mayſter Haruey. from my lodging at London thys 10. of Aprill. 1579.

The generall ar
the whole b

LIttle I hope, needeth me at large
gues, hauing alreadie touched th
knovv is vnknowen to moſt, and
(as they think) I vvyll ſay ſomev
to my preſent purpoſe.

They vvere firſt of the Greek
gaj as it vvere αἶγων or αἰγοκόμων. λόγοι. that is Go
and others the ſpeakers be moſt ſhepheards, and
more ground of authoritie, then in Virgile, this
firſt head and vvelſpring the vvhole Inuericion o
perſons and authors of his tales. This being, vvh
colour of learning would make vs beleeue that t
they vvould ſay, extraordinary diſcourſes of vnne
ſubſtaunce and meaning it agree with the nature
the ἀτάλυσις and interpretation of the word. Fo
logues. vvhich ſentence this authour very vvell o
indeede fevv Gotheards haue to doe herein, ne
vſed and beſt knovven name. Other curious diſ
ſion. The ſe xij. Æclogues euery where anſvver
may be vvell deuided into three formes or ranck
firſt, the ſixt, the eleuenth, & the twelfth, or recrea
matter of loue, or commendation of ſpecial pe
part be mixed with ſome Satyrical bitterneſſe, n
old age, the fift of coloured deceipt, the ſeuenth a
tours, the tenth of contempt of Poetrie & pleaſa
ry thing herein be reaſonably applyed: A few o
meaning I am not priuie to. And thus much gen
vve ſpeake particularly of all, and firſt of the firſt
name Ianuarie: wherein to ſome he may ſeeme f
ouſly beginneth with that moneth, vvhich begin
and ſtoutely mainteyned vvith ſtronge reaſons
in March. for then the ſonne renevveth his finiſh
ſheth the earth, and the pleſaunce thereof being
novv vvorne avvay, reliueth. This opinion mayn
phers, namely the reuerend Andalo, and Macro
accoumpt alſo vvas generally obſerued both of
leaue of ſuch learned heads, vve mayntaine a cuſt
moneth Ianuary, vpon a more ſpeciall cauſe, the
conceiue, that is, for the incarnation of our migh
Chriſt, vvho as then renevving the ſtate of the de
of expired yeres to theyr former date and firſt co
mortall of his birth in the ende of the laſt yeere
ning, beſide that eternall monument of our ſalua